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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 17870 311735Z

63
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NRC-05 /023 W
---------- 083199
R 311723Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4014
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
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NRC BETHESDA

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NRC FOR LAFLEUR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, GW, ASEC
SUBJECT: "PHYSICAL SECURITY" VISIT OF CHARLES BEAN

REF: A. STATE 255324; B. BONN 17425; C. ERDA/AMEMB
TELCON, OCTOBER 29

1. SUMMARY: WITH INTRODUCTION FROM FEDERAL CRIMINAL POLICE (BKA), BEAN VISITED GERMAN NUCLEAR FACILITIES AT KARLSRUHE, BIBLIS AND HANAU FOR "PERSONAL" DISCUSSIONS OF PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES. BKA IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE CRITICISM FROM FRG INTERIOR MINISTRY.

EMBASSY CONTACTED APPROPRIATE FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO HEAD OFF CRITICISM. WE DOUBT THAT VISIT WILL HAVE REPERCUSSIONS BUT STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL VISITS TO FRG NUCLEAR FACILITIES FOR DISCUSSIONS OF PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES BE ARRANGED THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS WITH EMBASSY ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. BKA OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBASSY THAT INTERPOL (WASHINGTON, SEE PARA 4 REF B AND REF A) CONFIRMED SECURITY CLEARANCE FOR CHARLES H. BEAN AS AN EMPLOYEE OF ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL
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STATUS. BKA REP EXPLAINED THAT BEAN WROTE PERSONAL

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LETTER TO BKA VICE PRESIDENT HEINL IN SEPTEMBER. THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR, BKA RESPONDED DIRECTLY AND POSITIVELY AND ARRANGED VISITS TO FRG NUCLEAR FACILITIES FOR DISCUSSIONS OF PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES. ONLY ON EVE OF BEAN'S VISIT DID BKA RECALL THAT FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WAS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT SUCH VISITS. THEY THEN TRIED TO COVER THEMSELVES BY REQUESTING SECURITY CLEARANCE DATA THROUGH EMBASSY AND INTERPOL. BKA REP ALSO ASSERTED THAT NUCLEAR FACILITIES WERE WARNED TO USE DISCRETION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH BEAN. BKA EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WILL NOT MAKE THIS MISTAKE AGAIN -- FUTURE VISIT REQUESTS WILL BE REFERRED TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FOR ACTION.

3. EMBASSY S&T COUNSELOR CONTACTED BEAN, WHO HAD ALREADY VISITED KARLSRUHE NUCLEAR CENTER AND BIBLIS NUCLEAR POWER STATION. BEAN EXPLAINED HE WAS WORKING AS NRC CONTRACTOR ON RELEVANT TOPICS BUT CONFIRMED PERSONAL NATURE OF VISIT. DISCUSSIONS IN KARLSRUHE HAD TOUCHED ONLY ABSTRACT ASPECTS OF PHYSICAL SECURITY. AT BIBLIS, BEAN WAS RECEIVED BY DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL SECURITY WHO FRANKLY DISCUSSED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROBLEM. BEAN WAS NEXT SCHEDULED TO VISIT NUKEM FACILITIES AT HANAU. EMBOFF EXPLAINED FRG POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES, URGED THAT DETAILS OF GERMAN PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN OBSERVED NOT RPT NOT BE INCLUDED IN ANY TRIP REPORT AND SUGGESTED THAT BEAN DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH NRC ON HIS RETURN TO US.

4. EMBOFF ALSO DISCUSSED PENDINQ VISIT WITH NUKEM OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SENSITIVE ABOUT US PHYSICAL SECURITY "INSPECTIONS". EMBOFF EXPLAINED PERSONAL NATURE OF BEAN VISIT BUT ASKED NUKEM TO EXTEND ALL APPROPRIATE COURTESIES.

5. TO HEAD OFF POSSIBLE FORMAL COMPLAINT FROM FEDERAL MINISTRIES, EMBOFF ALSO CONTACTED APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND OFFERED EXPLANATION. WE DO NOT RPT NOT FORESEE ANY UNDESIRABLE REPERCUSSIONS FROM BEAN VISIT.

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5. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ANY USG AGENCY DESIRING SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO FRG FOR DISCUSSIONS OF PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES FOR NUCLEAR FACILITIES MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH EMBASSY.
HILLENBRAND

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